

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment or variant thereof wherein the fragment or variant encodes a polypeptide with *alpha*-farnesene synthase activity.
4. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 3 wherein the sequence has at least 70% identity to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
5. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 3 wherein the sequence has at least 90% identity to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
6. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 3 wherein the sequence has at least 95% identity to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
7. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 3 wherein the nucleotide sequence is that of SEQ ID NO:1.
8. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or encoding a variant or a fragment of that sequence which has *alpha*-farnesene synthase activity.
9. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
11. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
12. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
13. (Withdrawn) An isolated *alpha*-farnesene synthase polypeptide.
14. (Withdrawn) An isolated *alpha*-farnesene synthase having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment or variant thereof with *alpha*-farnesene synthase activity.
15. (Withdrawn) An isolated *alpha*-farnesene synthase as claimed in claim 14 wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 70% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
16. (Withdrawn) An isolated *alpha*-farnesene synthase as claimed in claim 14 wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 90% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
17. (Withdrawn) An isolated *alpha*-farnesene synthase as claimed in claim 14 wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
18. (Withdrawn) An isolated *alpha*-farnesene synthase as claimed in claim 14 wherein the amino acid sequence is a mature sequence derived from SEQ ID NO:2.
19. (Currently amended) A genetic construct comprising a polynucleotide of claim 3 ~~claim 4~~.

20. (Currently amended) A genetic construct comprising in the 5'-3' direction an open reading frame polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 3 ~~claim 13~~.
21. (Original) A genetic construct as claimed in claim 20 further comprising a promoter sequence.
22. (Original) A genetic construct as claimed in claim 21 which further comprises a termination sequence.
23. (Original) A genetic construct as claimed in claim 22 wherein the sequence of the encoded polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof with *alpha*-farnesene activity.
24. (Currently amended) A genetic construct comprising in the 5'-3' direction a polynucleotide which hybridizes to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 3 ~~claim 13~~.
25. (Original) A genetic construct as claimed in claim 24 further comprising a promoter sequence.
26. (Original) A genetic construct as claimed in claim 25 which comprises a termination sequence
27. (Original) A genetic construct as claimed in claim 26 wherein the sequence of the encoded polypeptide is has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof with *alpha*-farnesene activity.
28. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a genetic construct of claim 19.
29. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising a genetic construct of claim 19.
30. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant cell which includes a genetic construct of claim 19.
31. (Original) A transgenic plant comprising a plant cell as claimed in claim 30.

32. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing *alpha*-farnesene comprising the steps of
- (a) culturing a cell which has been genetically modified with a polynucleotide of claim 1 to provide increased *alpha*-farnesene synthase activity;
 - (b) providing the cell with farnesyl diphosphate if necessary; and
 - (c) separating the *alpha*-farnesene produced.
33. (Withdrawn) A method for modulating the *alpha*-farnesene production of a plant, the method comprising: increasing or decreasing expression of *alpha*-farnesene synthase wherein said increasing or decreasing is achieved by genetic modification to alter the expression of a gene encoding an *alpha*-farnesene synthase .
34. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein the polypeptide comprises a polypeptide with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
35. (Withdrawn) A method for modulating *alpha*-farnesene production in a plant, the method comprising of :
- (a) introducing into the plant, a genetic construct of claim 19, and
 - (b) transcriptionally expressing the polynucleotide in the plant.
36. (Withdrawn) A method for modulating *alpha*-farnesene production in a plant, the method comprising of
- (a) introducing into the plant, a DNA genetic construct of claim 19, and
 - (b) expressing the polypeptide in the plant.
37. (Original) A polynucleotide having at least 15 contiguous nucleotides from SEQ ID NO: 1

38. (Withdrawn) A method of selecting a plant with altered *alpha*-farnesene content comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting polynucleotides from at least one plant with at least one polynucleotide comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of the polynucleotide of claim 1 to assess the expression of *alpha*-farnesene synthase; and
 - (b) selecting a plant showing altered expression.
39. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the polynucleotide has at least 15 contiguous nucleotides from SEQ ID NO: 1 and the plant is an apple plant.
40. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing *alpha*-farnesene comprising:
- (a) obtaining a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claim 13, and
 - (b) incubating farnesyl diphosphate in the presence of the polypeptide, and
 - (c) separating the *alpha*-farnesene produced..